

# Civics Fair Example Scenario

A Civics Fair is the perfect opportunity to encourage students to explore local issues and potential solutions.

Read on for an example of how Civics Fair materials can be used to address a single issue while helping students strengthen their communication skills, political engagement, and civic pride.

- **Local Problem:** Littering outside New Jersey Community Center.
- **Relevant Legislation:** New Jersey Statute Title 13 (littering is currently a petty offense)
- **Relevant Officials:** State Senator, Assembly Members, and Local (City/Town) Officials.

Documents:

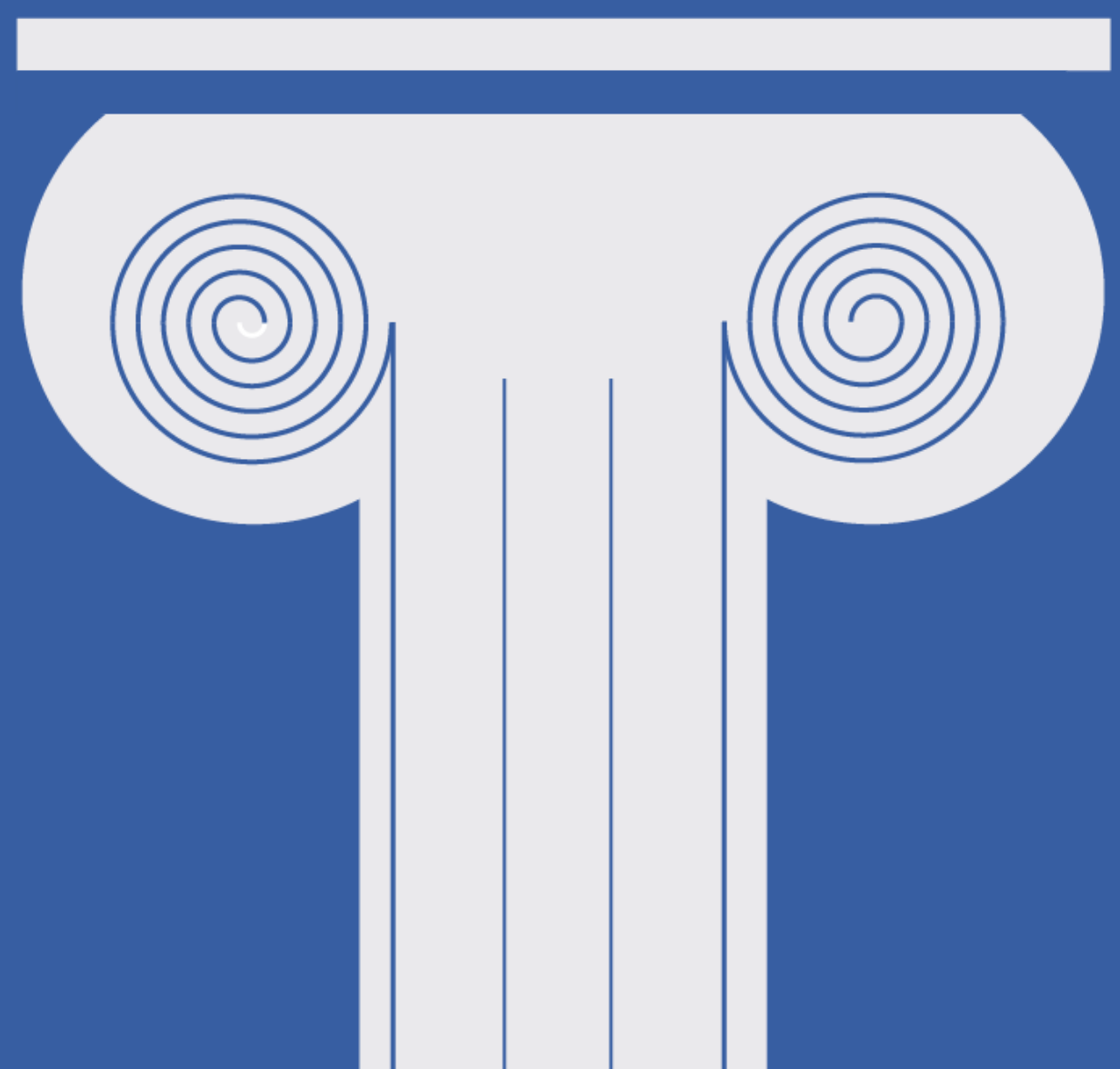
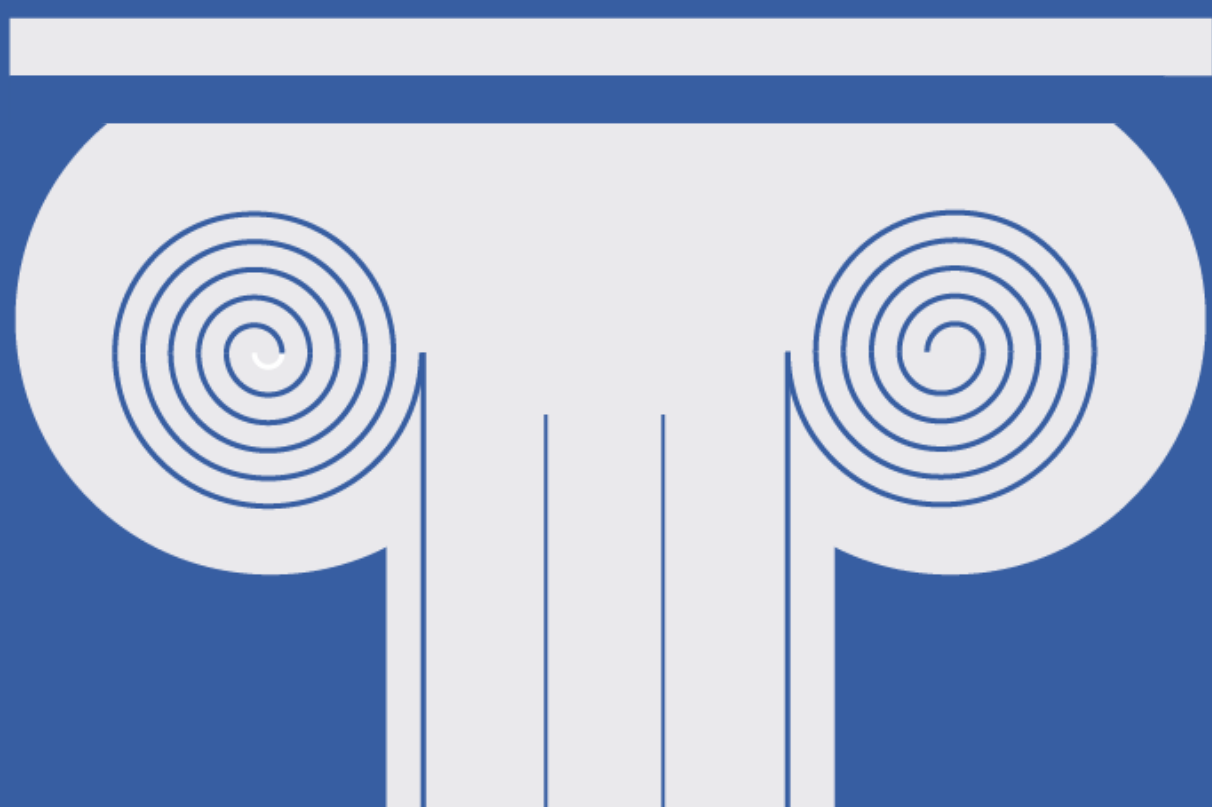
- Raising Awareness: [Petition](#)
- Contacting Officials: [Letter](#)
- Engaging the Community: [Service Project](#)

## IN FAVOR: Strengthen Anti- Littering Law

- Littering is a threat to the well-being of a community. It can be hazardous to physical health, especially for the children and seniors that go to the center.
- Litter may encourage a negative perspective of the neighborhood and may discourage people from utilizing the community center.
- Increased fines collected from offenders can be used to better the community.

## AGAINST: Do Not Strengthen Anti- Littering Law

- Littering is a non-violent offense. Harsher anti-littering law means non-violent offenders will face consequences that may strain local government and police departments.
- Current fines range from \$100 - \$500. Higher fines may cause a strain on the overall community if many people are found guilty of littering.



# CENTER FOR YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

## Proposed Solution IN FAVOR:

“Keep Jersey Clean” campaign including an appeal to elected state officials to amend NJ Statute Title 13, as well as involving the mayor and township committee in the plan to encourage clean public spaces. The campaign includes a plan to involve the community in a cleanup and volunteer day at the center.

### Raising Awareness: Petition

- Making other community members, stakeholders, and potentially officials aware of the situation.
- Finding allies in community members, organizations, and businesses.
- Gaining attention from media.

### Contacting Officials: Letter

- Reaching out to relevant officials.
- Making an ask: pointing out what specific action they can take to help.

### Engaging the Community: Service Project

- Bringing together allies and officials.
- Fundraising to improve conditions.

